

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00099 081110Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /074 W

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R 080844Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7783

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN

SUBJECT: SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC)

REF: A SEOUL 8361; B SEOUL 7562

1. TWICE-POSTPONED NINTH MEETING OF SNCC DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN WAS FINALLY HELD JAN 8, BUT ONLY AFTER NORTH SUDDENLY CHANGED ITS DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN.

2. NORTH KOREA JAN 6 INFORMED SOUTH THAT IT HAD REMOVED YU CHANG-SIK AS NORTH DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN AND REPLACED HIM WITH CHO MYONG-IL, WHO HAD BEEN SERVING AS SPOKESMAN OF NORTH KOREAN RED CROSS DELEGATION, OF WHICH HE HAD BEEN AJUNIOR MEMBER SINCE INCEPTION OF RED CROSS TALKS. ROK IMMEDIATELY CRITICIZDD NORTH KOREAN MOVE AS DELIBERATE DOWNGRADING OF SNCC CONTACTS WHICH NORTH HAD LONG BEEN ATTEMPTING (REF A). SEOUL ALSO ACCUSED PYONGYANG OF VIOLATING PARA THREE OF AGREED MINUTE ON SNCC SIGNED IN NOVEMBER 1972, ACCORDING TO WHICH DEPUTY CHAIRMEN SHALL BE OF MINISTERIAL OR VICE MINISTERIAL RANK AND SHALL BE APPOINTED THROUGH PRIOR CONSULTATION. DESPITE NORTH'S FAILURE TO OBSERVE THIS AGREEMENT, SOUTH ACCEPTED CHO'S APPOINTMENT.

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3. MEETING ITSELF APPARENTLY FOLLOWED PATTERN OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS. ACCORDING TO ROK MEDIA SOUTH DEPUTY CO-CHARIMAN CHANG JI-YONG MADE PROPOSAL CALLING FOR EXCHANGE OF MAIL BETWEEN TWO SIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH UPU CHARTER (REF B). CHO REPORTEDLY DID NOT INDICATE NORTH'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL. CHANG ALSO CALLED FOR JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM TO INSPECT DMZ TUNNEL AND FOR A NONAGGRESSION AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH, WHICH NORTH HAD PREVIOUSLY REJECTED. MEETING ENDED AFTER THREE HOURS WITH AGREEMENT TO HOLD TENTH MEETING ON MARCH 14.

4. COMMENT: AVAILABLE BIO INFORMATION ON CHO SUPPORTS ROK CONTENTION THAT NORTH HAS LOWERED THE OSTENSIBLE RANK OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE AND HENCE DOWNGRADED THE SNCC CONTACTS. HOWEVER, MEETINGS AT DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN LEVEL, ALTHOUGH STILL NONPRODUCTIVE, ARE APPARENTLY BACK ON TRACK FOR THE PRESENT.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON CHO PRIOR TO 1971.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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